

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 621

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Vanderbilt University on winning the 2009 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for its campus area The Commons.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those Tennessee institutions that, through their visionary leadership, have distinguished themselves as flagships of the community; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt University is one such institution; for its campus area The Commons, the school recently received the 2009 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for the "Building Green" category; and

WHEREAS, the "Building Green" category award has been given to Vanderbilt for the large number of green buildings on The Commons, which includes seven LEED-certified buildings; this is the largest collection of LEED-certified buildings in Tennessee and one of the largest in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, LEED certification is a designation awarded by the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, which recognizes structures that were designed and constructed with water conservation, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and waste minimization as guiding principles; and

WHEREAS, now in its twenty-third year, the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards program recognizes exemplary voluntary actions that improve or protect the environment and natural resources with projects or initiatives that are not required by law or regulations; thirty-nine professionals from various public and private organizations judged more than one hundred nominations to determine the award recipients; and

WHEREAS, the university was one of fourteen winners announced by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke; the awards will be officially conferred at a ceremony to be held on June 12 in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Governor's award, Vanderbilt won a 2008 Green Schools Award for the innovative environmental education that is incorporated into the student life experience of The Commons, which includes the Freshman Commons Seminars on sustainability, the Green Screen kiosk in the Commons Center lobby, and the student composting initiative implemented by Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is known across the United States for its natural beauty, and the farmers and ranchers of this State are some of the world's most productive; the integrity of its natural resources is of vital importance, not only to the commerce of this State but to the health and well-being of its people as well; and

WHEREAS, The Commons exemplifies the ingenuity and prudent use of resources that our society must demonstrate if it is to continue to thrive; for the care and foresight required to initiate such a project, Vanderbilt University should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Vanderbilt University on winning the 2009 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for the school's campus area The Commons and express our earnest hope that this project and the acclaim it has garnered will inspire others to follow Vanderbilt's fine example.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.